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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,408	12/12/2001	Robert J. DiStasio	6177-16	9888

7590 01/25/2005

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EXAMINER

SMITH, JAMES G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3723

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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01242005

DATE MAILED:

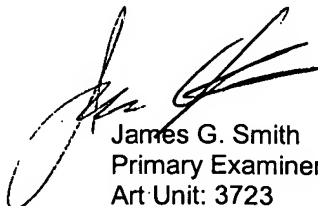
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**Commissioner for Patents**

The response to the requirement for election of a single species, received 06 January 2005, is acknowledged with applicants electing the species of figure 30i, which also includes figures 30g and 30. The claims applicants believe read on this species, in fact, do not read on the elected species as claims 1-6, 24-27 and 45-51 are drawn only to a tool which is not figure 30i and claims 7, 8, 28, 29, 52 and 53 are drawn to some type of hybrid or connection system and not to the elected species of figure 30i.

As applicants have elected the single species of the lock nut shown in figures 30g-i, only claims to the lock nut are readable on the shown species. Applicants election of the single species is without traverse.

The timely submission under 37 CFR 1.129(a) filed on 1/6/05 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because proper claims readable only on the elected species have not been presented. Since the submission appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior Office action, applicant is given a shortened statutory period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to submit a complete reply. This shortened statutory period supersedes the time period set in the prior Office action. This time period may be extended pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). If a notice of appeal and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) were filed prior to or with the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r), the payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(r) by applicant is construed as a request to dismiss the appeal and to continue prosecution under 37 CFR 1.129(a). The appeal stands dismissed.

  
James G. Smith  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3723